

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #48]

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Interview

with

Vito Cacciola

. . .

by

Merton R. Lovett

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“As well as remembered.”

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. . .

(from memory)

“I have had no work this morning, Mr. Lovett. I cleaned up the shop. I washed some clothes. One time I visited the garage and chewed some of the rag.

“Oh, it could be worse. I do not have a bellyache. I got plenty to eat. Just now I am cooking some veal. Does it not smell delicious?

“Envy is like cancer. It destroys happiness. Some people are most foolish.

“Tell me what it says on this coin.

“So that is it. All for one. One for all. So it should be in this great country. Everybody should help each other. There should be more perfect cooperation. Why should some have great riches and many live with poverty?

“Yes, the law of Jesus would bring peace and happiness. Now everyone must fight each other for jobs and for the necessities of life. The strong and the smart people eat the weak like cannibals.

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"I think that peoples acta like dogs and not lika brothers. Did you not see de dogs fighta for bone? They maka growls. They graba it from each other. They seiza it and run till they is catch-ed. Finally de biggest dog eata it up.

"Yes, I think that is de good example too. Also de rich peoples hava too much pride. They boasta. They maka poor peoples envious, when they driva de big autos and weara too precious clothes.

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"Sure, they maka disharmony. Sometimes it is dangerous. Did you reada about de rich man in New York? That man's wife weara jewels worth \$100,000 to de party. He is proud, but he excita envy in many peoples. In de night gangsters breaka in his house. They aska him, where is de jewels? He does not tella them at first, so what does they do? They burna his feet. Oh, it is terrible! He screams, but bye and bye he losa his courage. He saya to hisself,- 'My life it is worth more than jewels'. He giva them to de thief.

"Sure, it was his mistake to showa so much wealth in public. Pride and greed costa too much.

"What would I do if I hada million dollars? By jingo, Mr. Lovett, I cannot dreama of so much money.

"Well, if I was richa man, I would not spenda it for great luxury. What good would it do for Vito, if he hava many autos? De mansion with many rooms, I would not enjoy.

"Yes, I would buya de good piano. Perhaps I would geta de big organ, the same lika I once playa in Sicily. Music gives me much pleasure. I would shara it with others. Many of de poor musicians I would helpa.

"First I would helpa my brother Peter. My mother and de relatives in Italy. I would maka comfortable and happy.

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“And I would geta educated. By jingo, I would learna how to talk so good as American. When I had learn-ed, I mean learned, I would be de missionary. De money I would spend to bringa knowledge of good living to others. Lika Jesus preach-ed,

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I would give to de poor. From their hearts I would lifta worry and sin.

“I am glad you agrees with me, Mr. Lovett. But it is foolishness to dreama so. De cobbler must be satisfi-ed with riches in de mind and heart.

“Meeta my Sister by de law, Marie.

“This is Mr. Lovett of whom I tella you.

“It is most pleasant to geta such a lovely cake. With de veal which I cooked I will eata dinner lika de President.

“Maris is kind lika angel, Mr. Lovett. Often she cooks for me delicious food. Sometimes she irona my clothes.

“No, my jingo, I would be no better, if I had de wife. I am de good housekeeper. Is it not so Marie?

“My! My! My! You is joking Marie. You can finda no dirt in my bedroom. It is so neata as pin.

“She is very fine woman, Mr. Lovett. Some evening you must visita my brother Peter's house. My niece, Angela, will play for you de piano.

“Here is de shoes for your daughter, Mary. They is fix-ed. Will you taka them?

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"So you have not yet got a check? Taka them just de same. They doa me no good on de shelf.

"We is friends. I trusta you with pleasure.

"All righta then, I hope you get de check soon."